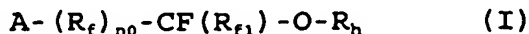


Examiner's Amendment

PROCESS FOR PREPARING HYDROFLUOROETHERS

ABSTRACT

Process for obtaining hydrofluoroethers of formula (I):



~~wherein: n_0 is zero or 1; R_f is a bivalent radical;~~

~~C_1-C_{20} (per)fluoroalkylene, optionally containing one or more oxygen atoms;~~

~~$-CFW'O-(R_{f2})-CFW-$, wherein W and W' , equal or different, are F , CF_3 ; R_{f2} is a (per)fluoropolyoxyalkylene;~~

~~R_{f1} is F or a C_1-C_{10} (per)fluoroalkyl or (per)fluoro-oxyalkyl radical;~~

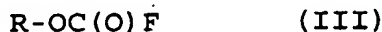
~~R_h is a C_1-C_{20} linear, branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, or C_7-C_{20} alkylaryl;~~

~~$A = F$, $(R_{h2}O)-CF(R_{f4})-$, $-C(O)F$, wherein R_{h2} , equal to or different from R_h , has the R_h meanings and R_{f4} , equal to or different from R_{f1} , has the R_{f1} meanings;~~

wherein a mono- or bifunctional carbonyl compound of formula (IV):



~~B being F or $-C(O)R_{f4}$, R_f , R_{f1} and R_{f4} being as above, is reacted with at least one equivalent of a fluoroformate of formula (III):~~



~~wherein $R = R_h$ or R_{h2} as above defined;~~

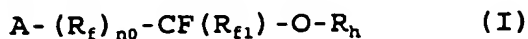
in the presence of an ion fluoride compound (catalyst) and of a dipolar aprotic organic compound, liquid and inert under the reaction conditions.

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